

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - February 9, 2010

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Terry Moulthane, City of Bay City; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Brandon Wilcox, MDOT Planning; Kurt Coduti, MDOT, and; Cyndi Gaul, Bay County EA & CD.

Minutes from December 8, 2009 Tech meeting:

It was moved by Majerczyk, seconded by Moulthane, to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2009 meeting. Motion Passed.

Federal Highway Bill Update:

Engelhardt said that there wasn't anything new to report on the Federal Highway Bill. The extended Authorization Bill ends on February 28, 2010. There is no new bill in place.

ARRA II - Jobs for Main Street:

Engelhardt discussed the possibility of MDOT having another ARRA program which would be called ARRA II - Jobs for Main Street. ARRA II is expected to be run the same as ARRA I. However, there is expected to be a 90-day contract award clause. This fast turn around time is a bit of a concern. If ARRA II goes through, it is very likely that I-75 to the County Line will be one of the projects (Project ID#86) as this is a top State priority. It will be important to get this project into the TIP if the ARRA II funding comes through.

BCATS FY 2008-11 TIP Amendments:

Engelhardt provided members with a handout of the various Bay Metro amendments to the 2008-11 TIP as well as the MDOT I-75 and M-13 bridge projects that will be added. Bay Metro additions are basically bringing forth projects that were previously unfunded and making operating cost corrections.

A motion was made by Gaydos, seconded by Lillo, to favorably recommend to the BCATS Policy Committee to approve the Bay Metro and MDOT TIP Amendments. Motion Passed.

BCATS 2011-14 TIP Update:

Engelhardt provided members with a handout of the 2011-14 TIP project list. He explained that we may need to move some of the projects forward, especially the Johnson Street project if the ARRA II funding is made available. However, overall the project list is pretty good. Engelhardt believes that BCATS can host a Public Review Meeting in April, 2010 for the 2011-14 TIP project list. The Walnut Street Project is in the DDA district and there isn't a cost total for the project at this time. However, it should be a Federal Aid eligible project. If local matches are not available for this project, there may be STP funding.

Travel Demand Model:

Engelhardt provided members with a handout of the Travel Demand Model Time Line and Transit Model. The Travel Demand Model will utilize updated social and economic data along with ongoing traffic counts to update the base year to the 2009 time frame. The new data will allow projections to be formulated that will assist in projecting where areas of growth and decline are occurring within Bay County. It is anticipated that the Travel Demand Model social and economic data will be ready by the April 2010 BCATS meeting. Engelhardt is currently working to capture traffic counts in a digital format, with the goal being to get all counts

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digitally.

Asset Management:

There will be IRT Training on February 17th, RoadSoft Training on March 1st and PASER Training on March 18th. All of the training sessions are being held at the Horizon Conference Center. Due to the afternoon training on February 17th, the BCATS Policy Meeting will be held in the morning. If anyone is interested in seeing a previous training session on RoadSoft, go to www.roadsoft.org. The Asset Management Council endorses the use of RoadSoft and they plan to make it the program they use.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT):

Engelhardt wanted to give everyone a heads up regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. A study of the traffic corridor between Bay City and Detroit is being done to determine if having bus travel between the two would be beneficial.

Non-Motorized Plan Sub-Committee:

Engelhardt would like to create a Non-Motorized Plan Sub-Committee that would consist of a variety of interested persons. Engelhardt would like to have a representative from the local cyclist group participate in the sub-committee. The purpose of the sub-committee would be to focus on the BCATS area and look at ways to increase non-motorized routes into existing routes. This group would also focus on education. If anyone is interested in this sub-committee they should contact Dave Engelhardt.

Proposed House Bills #5768 and #5769 for Gas Tax Increase:

Engelhardt gave an update on the proposed House Bills #5768 and #5769 that are for a gas tax increase. These bills don't seem to have support.

High Risk Rural Roads:

Engelhardt wanted the group to know that it's open application time for High Risk Rural Roads.

2010 Digital Orthophotography:

Engelhardt discussed that Bay County still plans to acquire digital Orthophotography in 2010. However, they will not pursue working with MicroSoft on this project. Instead, Bay County plans to team up with Saginaw and Midland counties to work together to acquire the digital Orthophotography. Engelhardt is expecting Board approval at the meeting today. The project is moving forward.

Signal Optimization Grant Opportunity:

Engelhardt provided a handout containing information about the Signal Optimization Grant Opportunity. If anyone is interested in pursuing such a grant, Engelhardt can provide a contact name and information. Engelhardt said that based on what he's read, the cost savings seem to be substantial. Majerczyk felt that most MPOs would be ahead by replacing all their current lights with LEDs for an actual saving.

EPA/DEQ New Ozone Standard:

Engelhardt explained that the EPA and DEQ have a new Ozone Standard that's currently under the 60-80 day public comment period. Once this new standard is adopted, projects will have new compliance regulations. Engelhardt is concerned that BCATS projects won't be in compliance with the new Ozone Standard, but that actual conformity requirements won't occur for several years. There will be changes and modifications needed to the projects in order to be in compliance.

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Project Updates:

The **Wilder Project** will be completed in May, 2010. The **Safe Routes to School Project** will be completed in June, 2010. The **Harrison St and Marquette Connector Projects** have been sent on for review and approval by MDOT. The **Borton Ave project** will have a March 5, 2010 Let for the Mill & Fill with a June, 2010 construction. The **M-84/I-75 Bridge Projects** will be completed between March and May, 2010. It is expected that the bridge over M-84 will be closed for construction sometime over the summer. The **I-75 Project (Cramer Road North)** will be Let next Friday, February 19, 2010. The **I-675 NB Project** in Saginaw will have road closure starting February 22, 2010. There will be an **M-84 Project Open House** at Frankenlust Township Hall on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

Other/New Business:

Chamber of Commerce Project Letter of Support:

Engelhardt told the group that he had drafted a letter to send to the Chamber of Commerce regarding BCATS support for the various projects. However, at the Ways and Means Meeting on February 3rd the Bay County Board of Commissioners gave their support for Bay County to apply for earmark funding for the US-10/Garfield Rd interchange and upgrading Garfield Rd. Therefore, Engelhardt wasn't sure if a letter should still be sent out to the Chamber. Majerczyk thought that a letter from BCATS had gone out because of the way the newspaper article was written. Gaydos was surprised that there would be any endorsement without an actual study having been conducted. Engelhardt said that it sounds like a study was included in the funding request being done for the Chamber of Commerce Garfield Road Project. Majerczyk said that the transportation people in Saginaw and Midland had no clue about the project on Garfield Road until it was in the newspaper. Lillo mentioned that there was concerns about the project funding for the drain portion of the project. It was the consensus of the group not to send the letter given that the project is moving forward. Majerczyk stated that the BCATS minutes reflect the prior discussions with the Chamber of Commerce.

As there was no other business, the February 9, 2010 meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul
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